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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/513,462	02/25/2000	Markus Lautenbacher	SEIM0023U/US	7313
31518	7590	03/24/2004	EXAMINER	
NEIFELD IP LAW, PC 2001 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY ARLINGTON, VA 22202			BACKER, FIRMIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/513,462	LAUTENBACHER, MARKUS	
	Examiner Firmin Backer	Art Unit 3621	
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address</i>			
Period for Reply			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 			
Status			
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 January 2004</u> .			
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL .		2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.	
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.			
Disposition of Claims			
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1 and 3-15</u> is/are pending in the application.			
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.			
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.			
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1 and 3-15</u> is/are rejected.			
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.			
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.			
Application Papers			
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.			
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).			
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.			
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120			
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some * c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ . 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.			
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.			
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.			
Attachment(s)			
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .	
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .		6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .	

Response to Arguments

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on January 7th, 2004, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new action is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two prong test of:

- (1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and
- (2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete and tangible result.

For a claimed to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea law of nature, natural phenomena) that do not apply,

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involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the “progress of science and the useful arts” and therefore are found to be non-statutory subject matter. For a method claim to pass the muster, the recited method must somehow apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts.

In the present case the inventive concept in claim 11 is directed to software product. It, However, fails to clearly disclose what type of software product being claimed and fail to produce a useful concrete and tangible result. Therefore deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 5-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Clark (U.S. PG Pub no. 2001/0011254).

6. As per claim 5, Clark teaches usage processing server comprising a usage processing module for processing a software product downloaded from a network, and wherein usage processing data required to perform usage processing are delivered to the usage processing server wherein the usage processing server is contacted by the software product after the

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software product has been downloaded into a terminal device of a user and has been activated, and wherein the usage processing data required to perform usage processing are delivered to the processing server (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

7. As per claims 6, Clark teaches a usage processing server further comprising: a data store in which a software product identification of the software product and type of usage processing data that prescribe a type of usage processing of the software product are stored by the usage processing module, and wherein the usage processing module registers the software product (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

8. As per claims 7, Clark teaches a usage processing server wherein: the usage processing data required comprises a software product identification of the software product and a user identification (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

9. As per claims 8, Clark teaches a usage processing server wherein the usage processing comprises performing an access control (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

10. As per claims 9, Clark teaches a usage processing server wherein: the usage processing comprises performing a usage charging of the software product on user accounts and provider accounts (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

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11. As per claims 10, Clark teaches a usage processing server according to claim 5, wherein the usage processing module keeps statistics about usage contacts that have taken place and about results of a processing of the usage contacts (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

12. As per claims 11 and 14, Clark teaches a software product comprising a software component that is activated when called by the software product and that subsequently starts communicating with a usage process server and delivers usage processing data required for performing usage processing to the usage processing server in the framework of the communication wherein the usage processing server is operated, wherein the usage processing server is operated by a network provider (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

13. As per claims 12, Clark teaches a software product wherein the usage processing data comprises: software product provider data; and software product identification; and wherein the usage processing data is dynamically determined user data (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

14. As per claims 13, Clark teaches a software product wherein the software component interacts with the user to produce the dynamically determined user data (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

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15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 1, 3, 4, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark (U.S. PG Pub 2001/001125) in view of Ahmad (U.S. Patent No. 5,925,127).

17. As per claims 1 and 15, Clark teaches a method of using software products that are offered via a network comprising inquiring about a software product from an offer server by a user via a terminal device downloading the software product from the offer server via the network onto the terminal device in response to the inquiry of the user activating a software component of the software product starting a communication by way of the software component with a usage processing server regarding a usage of the software product in response to a call of the software product in the terminal device of the user, providing, by the software component in a framework of the communication, data to the usage processing server (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*). Clark fails to teach an inventive concept of checking the data, by the usage processing server, and then making a determination selected from the group consisting of: whether usage of the software product is approved with respect to the inquiring user, and whether charging operations are carried out on user accounts and provider of software product accounts. However, Ahamad teach an inventive concept of checking the data, by the usage processing server, and then making a determination selected from the group consisting of whether usage of the software product is approved with respect to the inquiring user, and

whether charging operations are carried out on user accounts and provider of software product accounts (*see fig 3, column 9 line 15-12 line 10*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Clark's inventive concept to include Ahamad's inventive concept and checking the data, by the usage processing server, and then making a determination selected from the group consisting of: whether usage of the software product is approved with respect to the inquiring user, and whether charging operations are carried out on user accounts and provider of software product accounts because this would have facilitate software application provider to monitor the usage of their software application usage thereby increase the revenue of the provider.

18. As per claim 3, Clark teaches a method further comprising operating the usage processing and the offer server by a network provider (*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

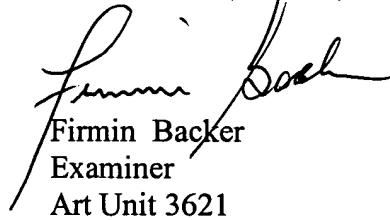
19. As per claims 4, Clark teaches a method further comprising using a web server for a server selected from the group consisting of the offer server and the usage processing server ((*see paragraphs 0035, 0308, 0316, 0325*).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Firmin Backer
Examiner
Art Unit 3621

March 18, 2004